



See pp. B-4 & B-5.

2-27th Wolfhounds display readiness at Bellows

Story and photo by
SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

MARINE CORPS TRAINING AREA, Bellows — Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, here, Jan. 7-9.

“The exercise was an outstanding test of nearly every single system in the battalion,” said Lt. Col. Barrett Bernard, commander, 2-27th Inf. Regt.

For the exercise, Wolfhounds were airlifted from Wheeler Army Airfield to here in CH-47 Chinook helicopters, where they conducted their main mission of securing a U.S. consulate.

Once the elements arrived at Bellows, the Soldiers strategically moved across the terrain toward the objective. Upon arrival, the battalion commander met with the “consulate general.”

“After sitting down with the battalion commander, they seem to be on top of exactly what they want and need to do,” said Master Sgt. Steven Day, Civil Affairs senior enlisted leader, 25th ID, and role player consulate general.

During their time at MCTAB, Soldiers patrolled the villages trying to weed out an insurgency that threatened the consulate.

As soon as Day deemed the insurgency no longer a threat to the consulate and the villages in the area, the Soldiers were informed they were no longer needed to provide security, concluding the mission.

The exercise called for the battalion to be spread out geographically across several training areas on Oahu and required the unit to deploy two battalion-level mission command nodes.

“Coordinating between two nodes to control a dynamic and deteriorating security situation in each of the locations was extremely challenging, but it is the reason the exercise was so valuable to us,” said Bernard.

Being spread out forced the command and staff to create solutions to the problems on the ground without being physically present with the units they were directing.

“I am incredibly proud of the way our Soldiers performed,” said Bernard. “They were extremely disciplined throughout the exercise and displayed a high degree of agility at squad, platoon and company levels.



Pfc. Clay Bodine, assigned to Company A, 2nd Bn., 27th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 25th ID, provides security along a landing zone during an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise, at MCTAB, Jan. 8.

New enlisted separation now gives 180 days prior to ETS

ARMY NEWS SERVICE
News Release

WASHINGTON — The Enlisted Voluntary Early Separation Program and the Enlisted Involuntary Early Separation Program have some important changes that took effect Jan. 1.

Voluntary Separation

The Enlisted Voluntary Early Separation Program is designed for Soldiers who have employment offers and want to separate prior to the expiration of their term of service (ETS.) They can now request getting out up to 180 days prior to their ETS.

Soldiers can request the separation through their local commanders, if they can show adequate salary or compensation from their potential civilian employers, and that the separation won’t hurt their ability to support their families, said James R. Bragg, branch chief for Retention and Reclassification-Involuntary/Voluntary Separation Program, Human Resources Command, at Fort Knox, Ky.

Bragg added that, of that 180-day maximum period, the Soldier would need a minimum of 90 days for normal transition/separation processing.

The previous voluntary separation policy was for

“We want to ensure all Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect, and that when they leave the service, they’re ambassadors for the Army.”

— Col. Charles A. Slaney
Program manager for reserve component career counselors, HRC

Soldiers planning to attend college. That policy allows them to separate up to 90 days early, so they can begin their semester work, Bragg said. That policy remains in effect. Nothing has changed with that policy.

The new policy allowing for early separation for a job opportunity can be “good for the Soldiers and their families” as they transition, Bragg

See Separate A-4



Courtesy of Army News Service

The Enlisted Voluntary Early Separation Program and Enlisted Involuntary Early Separation Program have some important changes that took effect Jan. 1, 2014.



Sisters in Arms tackles women’s issues, concerns

U.S. ARMY-PACIFIC
Public Affairs

ALIAMANU MILITARY RESERVATION — A career in the Army can be tough and the challenges of being a Soldier and a Mom leave a lot of women struggling to balance it all.

This subject was one of more than five dozen topics discussed at the fourth U.S. Army-Pacific Sisters in Arms meeting, here, Jan. 9.

Four months since its inception, the USARPAC Sisters in Arms program continues to garner a lot of participation and excitement for what’s to come. The USARPAC Sisters in Arms executive steering committee thought it prudent to have an open forum discussion in early January to hear from the women in attendance and incorporate their concerns into future events and meetings.

More than 75 women, both military and civilian assigned to USARPAC and subordinate units across the island, attended and anonymously submitted questions and comments, which were read aloud and discussed with the group. Topics addressed included finding a balance for work and family to mentorship and professional development opportunities.

Maj. Kelly Stewart, USARPAC personnel officer and executive steering committee member, talked about the realities, responsibilities and challenges of being a Soldier and a parent.

“As a dual military spouse and mother of two young ones, ages 6 and 9, there is always that pull to try and give my all to both, and what I found is you are never going to find the exact right mix,” said Stewart. “You have to be at peace with yourself and have a very supportive family and supportive chain of

USARPAC Sisters in Arms meeting
When: 12:30-2 p.m., Tuesday
Where: AMR Chapel
Why: Keynote speaker Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Other: Be seated in the chapel by 12:20 p.m.

command.”

Stewart’s husband deployed just four days before the meeting, so balancing it all now rests on her shoulders until he returns.

Those in attendance expressed positivity about the camaraderie and mentorship experienced.

“Coming here has shown me that we have a chain of support and a group where I can talk to other females in the Army about issues,” said Spc. Cierra Roe, a supply specialist from the 18th Medical Command. “It’s so good to be able to come in here and talk about perceptions and work on improvement. Women in uniform should come to Sisters in Arms because they might be going through something and not know how to help themselves, and here you see that we are all here to help one another. We don’t judge, and we don’t discriminate against one another,” she added.

While the program addresses women-specific issues, men are invited to attend monthly meetings and educate themselves about what women in the Army are concerned about, focused on and dealing with. This month’s meeting included men, as well.

Rueben Hardman, director, Sustainment & Acquisitions, was one of several men who attended the meeting. A single father of two

See SIA A-4



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Biofuel-capable plant may be coming to SB

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-HAWAII
Public Affairs

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — The Army invites the public to provide input on the scope of a future Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the construction and operation of a 50-megawatt biofuel-capable power generation plant, here.

The Schofield Generating Station Project (SGSP) would be a source of renewable power that would benefit the Hawaiian Electric Company (“Hawaiian Electric”) and Oahu residents by supplying power to the islandwide grid during normal operations.

The SGSP would also provide an energy security service for Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Airfield and Field Station Kunia by serving as a backup source of power, should loss of service occur from the normal electricity sources

supporting these installations.

Electricity produced from renewable biofuels at the SGSP would help the Army achieve its renewable energy goals.

The EIS will study the impacts of developing the SGSP on existing land at Schofield Barracks.

The Army would lease 10.3 acres to Hawaiian Electric and grant a related 2.5-acre interconnection easement on Schofield’s South Range, west of Kunia Road. Hawaiian Electric would construct, own, operate and maintain the power generation plant.



ENERGY INITIATIVES TASK FORCE
Securing Army installations with energy that is clean, reliable and affordable

lished in the Federal Register or online at www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/schofieldplant/.

Interested members of the public, as well as federal, state and local agencies, are invited to participate in the scoping process by helping to identify possible al-

ternatives, potential environmental impacts and key issues of concern to be analyzed in the EIS.

During the 45-day scoping period, which runs Jan. 17 to March 3, 2014, the community can participate in public scoping meetings, submit written comments or both.

The scoping meetings will be held the first week of February, as follows:

•Feb. 5: 6:30-9 p.m., Mililani Makua Elementary School Cafeteria, 95-1111 Makaikai St., Mililani, HI 96789.

•Feb. 6: 6:30-9 p.m., Wahiawa District Park Recreation Center, 1129 Kilani Ave. Wahiawa, HI 96786.

The meetings will start with an informational display viewing at 6:30 p.m., followed by an overview presentation at 7 p.m. and an oral comment period from 7:30-9 p.m.

BRIDGING THE BASICS

Brigade poker chips are also rewarding Soldier excellence

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. MICHAEL QUINN
441st Military Intelligence Battalion
500th Military Intelligence Brigade

More than 12 years of combat have dramatically changed the make-up of our Soldiers.

Unconstrained resources, constant deployments and manpower shortages accelerated promotions and reduced opportunities for professional development.

Initiative in garrison environments decreased, and the focus, rightfully so, was on the mission, usually involving preparation for a combat deployment.

Soldiers began to correlate success and excellence strictly with the performance of their duties, whether deployed or in garrison. There just wasn’t enough time or energy to do more; good ideas were quickly buried by organizational requirements.

“Bridging the Basics” is how we refocus our Soldiers to excel in an environment that is similar to the drawdown we experienced in the 1990s. The challenge we face is how to increase initiative before Soldiers truly feel the effects of the pending Army drawdown.

This point is where the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade Soldier of Excellence Program comes in. The program is simple but fairly innovative. Command sergeants major provide 500th MI Bde. poker chips to first sergeants, captains in a command position and field grade officers. These leaders use the poker chips to reward Soldiers for the excellence they see.

When a Soldier collects three poker chips, he or she can trade them back to leadership for a three-day pass, a certificate of achievement signed by the brigade command team or a brigade coin.

Three things make this program unique:

•*First*, the poker chips are recycled back to the command, drastically reducing cost in a time of limited resources;

•*Second*, the poker chips are not assigned to an individual, allowing subordinate leaders to re-



Quinn

ward the excellence they see accomplished. Junior noncommissioned officers often use poker chips they have earned to reward their Soldiers for exceptional performance.

•*Third*, the program is designed to appeal to everyone in the organization. Soldiers who already have a brigade coin will continue to be motivated to obtain a certificate of achievement (worth five promotion points) or a pass.

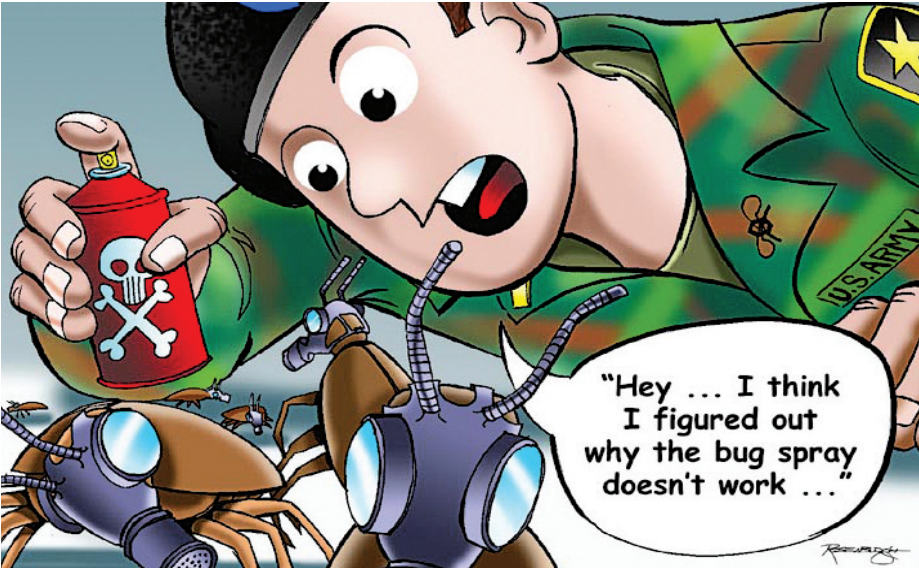
In the 441st MI Battalion, we used these poker chips to completely change the mindset of our formation. It started with awarding poker chips to the Soldier who sounded off the loudest or who displayed the most motivation during physical readiness training (PRT.) Next, we then awarded poker chips whenever a Soldier volunteered without hesitation for a detail or additional duty. Soldiers began to see that the act of volunteering to do more and displaying motivation was acknowledged and rewarded. Finally, we began awarding poker chips to Soldiers who clearly exceeded the standard in the performance of their duties.

The effects of this program have been dramatic. In just over four months, motivation and esprit de corps have gone through the roof. We never have difficulties finding volunteers for additional duties or random taskings from higher. Soldiers are motivated during PRT, leading to increased Army Physical Fitness Test scores and a decrease in profiles.

Soldiers actively look for more to do outside of their duties; volunteer hours have considerably increased. We have 10 Soldiers (out of 12 total) on the U.S. Army-Japan Honor Guard, and we had more volunteers than necessary to support both the garrison flag detail and the ethnic observance for African-American History Month.

Junior NCOs even made this program their own by holding a platoon-level competition, awarding three poker chips (that they earned) to the winning Soldier.

These changes are not entirely attributed to the Soldier of Excellence program; it takes passionate and engaged leaders to really make a difference. With that being said, the changes were made much quicker and easier by that little poker chip and the Soldier of Excellence Program.



Voices of Ohana

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 20.

“What community service projects and/or programs are you involved with?”

Photos by 311th Signal Command (Theater) Public Affairs



“On the island, I was the president for the Pop Warner Youth Football League, and I also used to volunteer as a referee for the AYSO.”

Ivan Hoopii
Training specialist,
311th SC (T)



“I volunteer at a community garden center called Kokua Kalihi Valley, which focuses on environmental clean-up and restoring Kalihi Valley back to its more natural state.”

Capt. Liana Kim
PAO, 9th MSC



“I used to instruct tae kwon do classes. The class helped the kids in boosting their self-confidence and was also a good exercise for them.”

Maj. Rubin Neypes
Info Assurance branch chief,
311th SC(T)



“I’m a volunteer basketball coach for the AAU, and I’m also part of a minister unit team for New Beginnings Revival Center of Hawaii.”

Staff Sgt. Darius Porter
Trans. specialist,
311th SC (T)



“I helped collect and place used combat boots along the Ford Island Bridge for the annual Hero Remembrance Run.”

Staff Sgt. Angelo Whitfield
Admin. clerk,
311th SC (T)



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Interested in submitting an article or photo to the Hawaii Army Weekly? Send submissions to editor @hawaiiarmyweekly.com and visit www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com for more information regarding our editorial policy.

322nd CA welcomes new leader, bids aloha to Hirai

Trinidad returns to brigade

9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER FLATS — Col. Joseph Trinidad took command of the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade, 9th Mission Support Command, from Col. Peter Hirai, in a change of command ceremony, Sunday.

Trinidad came from the U.S. Army-Pacific Support Unit, where he served the 4960th Multi-Functional Training Brigade as an adjunct instructor for the Command and General Staff College.

He previously served with the 322nd CA Bde. during its deployment to Iraq in 2005-2006.

The outgoing brigade commander was selected to serve as the Headquarters Element Chief for

the 351st CA Cmd-Hawaii Detachment.

“Soldiers and families are always our most precious resource,” Hirai said, “I was humbled and honored to be able to take care of both.”

When not in uniform with the Army Reserve, Hirai is the deputy director of emergency management for the City and County of Honolulu.

During Hirai’s tenure, the 322nd deployed warrior-diplomats throughout the Asia-Pacific, and he received four national level awards for safety and a regional award for family readiness.

Brig. Gen. John Cardwell, commander, 9th MSC, noted the importance of the brigade.

“The Soldiers of the 322nd have a vital mission that is so vital here in the Pacific, and an impeccable legacy to be proud of,” said Cardwell. “In fact, the 322nd has been here doing great things since before Hawaii was a state!”



Liana Kim, 9th Mission Support Command Public Affairs

Col. Joseph Trinidad (center), incoming commander, 322nd CA Bde., 9th MSC, returns the brigade flag to Command Sgt. Maj. Jaybee Obusan, senior enlisted leader, during a change of command ceremony, Sunday.



Sgt. Jesse Untalan, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Public Affairs

Chaplain (Col.) Dave Neetz (center), the retiring chaplain for the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, holds up his certificate of retirement and poses for a photo with Maj. Gen. Stephen Lyons (left), commander, 8th TSC, and Sgt. Maj. Davis, the former non-commissioned officer in charge of the chaplain section for the 8th TSC, during Neetz's retirement ceremony.

Chaplain wraps up 40 years

STAFF SGT. GAELN LOWERS
8th Theater Sustainment Command
Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER — His life has been a roller coaster, an experience he equates to the ups and downs of ocean waves.

During his four decades as a chaplain in the U.S. Army, the tide was sometimes so high it washed over the embankments, but other times it was so shallow the fish clamored for their lives.

Chaplain (Col.) Dave Neetz’s story started out, like many great ones do, because of a girl. The problem was she smoked.

“I hate cigarette smoke,” Neetz said, sitting in his office at the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, “but once I figured out that she hated the smell of cigars, I went out and bought a big box of stogies. Every time she lit up a cigarette, I lit up a stogie. After about three days, she said, ‘Ok, I’m quitting!’ but, to this day, I’ve had the hardest time quitting those cigars.”

Just a few years out of high school, he found himself in Florida, working as an assistant manager at a grocery store with her and wanting a change in his life, wanting to get away from that same girl, the one who used to smoke.

He walked into the Army recruiter’s office the next day.

Nov. 23, 1973, 20-year-old Dave Neetz be-

came Pvt. Neetz, Army infantryman.

Neetz bounced from one unit to another, eventually serving as a National Guard recruiter while simultaneously attending seminary school and receiving his bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

In 1987, after 13 years as an enlisted Soldier, he received his direct commission.

“I walked out onto that field as a sergeant first class and walked off the field as a first lieutenant.”

He lived through highs and lows for himself, the Army and the country he serves. His uniform proudly displays the accomplishments of a man who has lived his life to serve others. Neetz used his position to build his people, never his people to build his position.

“I’m not the greatest leader in the world, but I truly do care about my people and their success,” he said.

As Neetz transitions out of the Army, moving from the sands of Hawaii to the snowy hills of Alaska, he reflects on his life and is proud of the way things have panned out.

“If I were to die today, I would die happy,” he said. “I’ve had a lot of fun, I’ve done a lot of crazy stuff, I have met some wonderful people, and I’m blessed to have shared in the lives of people that I love and to have shared my life with them.”

(Editor’s note: Read the full version of this story at www.hawaiiarmyweekly.com.)



File photo

The website www.opala.org lists numerous ways to recyle residential and business waste.

Hazardous waste roundup dates are Jan. 25, March 8

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
PUBLIC INFORMATION**
City and County of Honolulu

HONOLULU — The city’s Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is currently accepting appointments for household hazardous waste drop-offs.

The next two drop-off dates are Jan. 25 and March 8, by appointment only.

ENV conducts bimonthly collection drop-offs, but residents must call the ENV Household Hazardous Waste Line at 768-3201, and be prepared to provide a list of items and estimated quantities.

Only small quantities are accepted from each

household. Larger quantities may be rejected or incur a fee.

The deadlines to call and make an appointment are today (Jan. 17) and Feb. 28, respectively. Businesses must contract privately for proper disposal of hazardous waste materials.

Acceptable items include pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, solvents, thinners, corrosives, cleaners, varnishes and gasoline.

Honolulu does not have a hazardous waste landfill. ENV has procured a vendor that collects the hazardous wastes and ships them off island for proper disposal.



File photo

Items such as hazardous waste, above, and bulky items, like furniture can be recycled.

Separate: Many options available

CONTINUED FROM A-1

said.

Further details of the changes can be found in All Army Activity message 340/2013.

Involuntary Separation

The Enlisted Involuntary Early Separation Program has been in effect for some time for Soldiers whose units are deploying and their ETS date is during that deployment.

In those cases, Soldiers would be offered the chance to re-enlist, extend or choose a different unit or military occupational specialty, said Bragg. If they didn’t, they would be involuntarily separated up to one year before their ETS. That remains in effect.

The big change is that besides deploying units, the policy now also covers units that are going to be deactivated, he said.

For Soldiers in units that will be deactivating, they’ll be given 45 days to extend or re-enlist from the time they’re notified, Bragg continued. If the Soldier chooses not to extend or re-enlist, the Soldier’s ETS would be reduced up to a year’s time — depending on the date his or her unit is deactivating — but not less than 90 days for the transition/separation processing.

The policy would not apply to units that are deactivating but are then reactivating as a different unit, at the same location. In that case, the Soldiers would remain with their unit until their ETS dates, he added.

Although no Soldier has yet been affected by the change, Bragg said he expects there will be involuntary separations for those in units deactivating as the draw-down continues.

“We always give the Soldier the opportunity to stay with the team first,” he added.

The policy for involuntary early separations can be found in All Army Activity message 339/2013 and Military Personnel 13-375.

Whether or not Soldiers choose the voluntary separation route or the involuntary, they are afforded, as always, the opportunity to speak with a reserve-component career counselor for possible offerings in the National Guard or Army Reserve, said Col. Charles A. Slaney, program manager for reserve component career counselors, HRC.

“We want to ensure all Soldiers are treated with dignity and respect, and that when they leave the service, they’re ambassadors for the Army,” he emphasized.

(For more ARNEWS stories, visit www.army.mil/ARNEWS or Facebook at www.facebook.com/ArmyNewsService.)

SIA: Info embraces genders, ranks

CONTINUED FROM A-1

teenage girls, Hardman said he was thankful for the chance to observe and participate in the USARPAC Sisters in Arms session.

“The perspective and insight gained by just being in the room, surrounded by leaders and professionals alike was immeasurable,” he said. “I can honestly go home tonight and share with my daughters that the future for them as young, independent and influential women looks inspiring.

“Although the crowd was few of male participants, I felt that the sincerity of what was shared goes across all genders and all ranks, both Soldiers and civilians to gain from,” Hardman said.

Col. Brenda Andrews, USARPAC personnel officer and executive committee member, said that’s exactly what the command-supported program aims to do.

“We really want to focus on what some of the situations are that challenge us,” Andrews said. “At the end of the day, it’s about improving ourselves, our environment and our command.”

A second special USARPAC Sisters in Arms meeting is scheduled, 12:30-2 p.m., Tuesday, with keynote speaker Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, at the AMR chapel. Participants must be seated in the chapel by 12:20 p.m. Gabbard will speak to the audience sharing her experiences as a Soldier and a congresswoman.

Sisters in Arms

For more information on the USARPAC Sisters in Arms program, visit www.facebook.com/pages/US-Army-Pacific-Sisters-in-Arms/.

PTA

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA

Range employee is named best of quarter

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-POHAKULOA
Public Affairs

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Longtime Hilo resident Anthony Ortogero received PTA’s Employee of the Quarter Award for his exceptional contributions while serving in the Range Division.

Over a period of several years, Ortogero has vastly improved the operation of the ranges, here, by initiating many unique solar upgrades, while evaluating the safety aspects of all training and jobs conducted at PTA’s ranges.

Ortogero took the lead as the initial journeyman to introduce a new standard for operating procedures and the mission of range maintenance via on-the-job training for new PTA range employees. His solar energy knowledge and skills led to the design and new construc-

tion of a “line row concept” that has saved range maintenance invaluable time in troubleshooting and service downtime since its implementation.

Ranges are now able to operate at a moment’s notice and power issues are virtually nonexistent.

“We are lucky to have Tony here at PTA,” said Lt. Col. Eric Shwedo, commander, U.S. Army Garrison- Pohakuloa. “(He is) exceptionally humble, but he has made a huge contribution to keeping Soldiers and Marines safe in combat training for over 20 training years.”

Ortogero has been a valuable member of the PTA team since 1992. His perseverance in striving to eliminate job hazards and analysis during key project planning stages has immensely decreased injuries at PTA ranges.



Michelle Voeller, Pohakuloa Training Area Public Affairs

Anthony Ortogero (center), PTA Range Control employee, receives recognition from Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lutgens (left), senior enlisted leader, PTA, and Lt. Col. Eric Shwedo, commander, PTA, as the PTA Employee of the Quarter.

IMCOM asks for feedback to improve installations, services

RUSSELL MATTHIAS
U.S. Army Installation Management Command

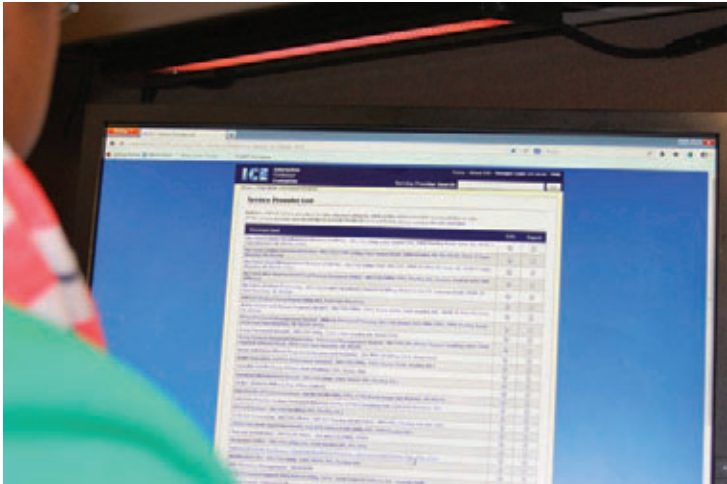
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ICE empowers customers to make



Amanda Kraus Rodriguez

A U.S. Army Installation Management Command employee demonstrates the use of the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) system to co-workers, recently. Through ICE, customers can rate products and services and leave suggestions for IMCOM leaders.

a difference in how IMCOM delivers products and services, by offering recommendations and bringing up is-

meet changing requirements.

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Using ICE

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Visit www.ice.disa.mil and let your voice be heard.

who uses IMCOM services, their families, as well as veterans, retirees and civilian employees. By sharing your honest feedback, together we can work to improve service delivery and achieve IMCOM’s goal of providing world-class customer service.

(Editor’s note: Matthias works with ICE Site Administration for IMCOM.)

TRICARE ends walk-in admin at 189 facilities

JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — TRICARE military health plan service centers will end administrative walk-in services in the United States on April 1, Pentagon officials said Monday.

While the 189 facilities will stop taking walk-ins, beneficiaries can accomplish any administrative task online or by phone, said Pentagon spokesman, Army Col. Steve Warren.

TRICARE service centers overseas are not affected, Warren said. “The change will not — let me repeat that — will not affect any TRICARE medical benefit or health care service,” he emphasized. “What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing TRICARE to invest in more important services.”

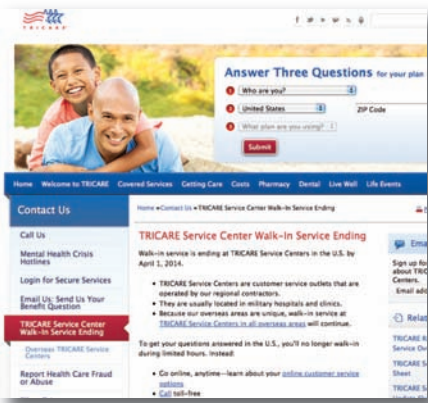
Fifty percent of the visits to the centers are for in- and out-processing and requests to change primary care providers, and the rest involve billing-related questions, officials said.

The Defense Department spends roughly \$50 million a year on these services, and this type of customer service can be handled more efficiently by phone or online, they added.

TRICARE gets about 38,000 hits per day on its website. Officials have run tests to ensure the website and call center can handle the expected increase in volume.

TRICARE Online

Beneficiaries can get more information and sign up for updates at www.tricare.mil/tsc.



The TRICARE service centers have been around since the 1990s, and contractors staff them, Warren said.

“This is being driven by the fact that technology has gotten so much better,” he added.

Customers who need the type of assistance that was being done in these walk-in service centers can quickly and efficiently receive help online or via phone, Warren added.

- Bldgs. 1150 and all Range Control; 1124 and all Range maintenance; 1123 and all DPW Environmental/Oahu Natural Resource; 1170 (Mars Station), 1181 and all DPTMS;
- Med Simulation Training center; and 2225 (Air Force Combat Arms Range.) Call 655-1309.

25 / Saturday

Power Outage 2 — A scheduled power outage, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., will affect all facilities on Trimble Road past the intersection of Mellichamp Street, Schofield Barracks. Specifically, Ranges 2276, 2253, 2279, bunkers, the new motor pool and water tank 2300.

Ongoing

TAMC Lane Closure — Tripler’s Krukowski Road may be partially closed, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., near Bldgs. 102 and 104.



Send announcements for Soldiers and civilian employees to news@hawaiiarmyweekly.com.

Today

Redeployment — Due to a flight delay, redeployment for Soldiers of the 19th Military Police Battalion (Criminal Investigation Division), 6th MP Group, occurs today at Honolulu International Airport. As of press time, the flight is expected to arrive around 2:30 p.m. The MPs were originally scheduled to arrive yesterday.

PW Digest — The Apr-May-Jun 2014 “Environment and Sustainability” edition of the Public Works Digest is now soliciting for articles. This edition of the PW Digest offers an opportunity for you to write about your installation policies, programs and projects from the headquarters, region, installation or district viewpoint.

Please note, articles are for the Public Works community and should be Public Works related. Deadline to submit an article for this issue is Feb. 28. All submittals need to be reviewed by garrison Public Affairs; send them to aiko.brum@us.army.mil.

Comments Requested — The Clean Water Program needs your comments on the 2013 draft Storm Water Management Plan and asks you to participate in U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii’s program to improve water quality.

The public comment period began Wednesday and continues to Feb. 14. Visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/sustainability/CleanWater.aspx or call 656-3105/3317.

Veterans’ Grant — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced Tuesday the availability of up to approximately \$600 million in grants for nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that serve very low-income veteran families occupying permanent housing through the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.

SSVF assists very low-income veteran families who are homeless or at imminent risk of

becoming homeless. Visit www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

21 / Tuesday

Talk Story — Join the Support Network for Military Spouses and Significant Others for partners of active duty or veterans who have experienced traumatic events. Special events include guest speakers, workshops, group outings, celebrations and inspirational experiences.

Light refreshments served. Talk stories take place every first and third Tuesdays. Call 277-6492.

24 / Friday

Change of Responsibility — Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Crosby, senior enlisted leader, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, will relinquish duties to Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Sweezer at a ceremony, 10 a.m., on Schofield’s Weyand Field.

27 / Monday

ASAP Moving — The Army Substance Abuse Program relocates to Bldg. 556 at 344 Heard St., Schofield Barracks (the old Teen/Outdoor Recreation Center next to Schofield Bowling Center.) Due to the move, all regularly scheduled appointments will be cancelled and rescheduled accordingly from today through Feb. 14.

During the transition, all ASAP patient walk-ins will be referred to their respective Embedded Behavioral Health Team for emergencies. Call 433-8700.

February

3 / Monday

Jr. Enlisted Taxes — The Schofield Tax Center will open for single junior enlisted (E-1 to E-4) on a walk-in basis only and begin fielding appointment phone calls at 655-1040. Tax preparation will be open to all service members, retirees and family members by appointment only.

The center is in a new 2014 location: Trailer #1, across the street from the Soldier Support Center (Bldg. 750.)

11 / Tuesday

AFCEA Luncheon — The Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association hosts a lunch, 11 a.m., at Fort Shafter’s Hale Ikena.

The guest speaker will be MG Darryl Wong, Adjutant General, State of Hawaii, National Guard. The subject will be an update on the Hawaii National Guard and Homeland Security.

To register, visit www.afcea-hawaii.org or call 441-8565/8524.



Traffic Alerts report closed roads, limited routes and construction detours from Army and state advisories received by press time.

For the complete list of traffic advisories, visit www.garrison.hawaii.army.mil/info/trafficalendar.htm.

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers are 808 area code.

23 / Thursday

SB Power Outage 1 — All of Schofield’s Area X and the following buildings/areas will be without power, 7:30 a.m.-noon:

- Motorcycle Safety Training area;
- All of McCarthy Flats;

Hawaii Harvest

Photos by Annie Suite, FarmLovers Farmers' Markets

Baby eggplant and cherry tomatoes are among the fruits and vegetables available at local farmers' markets.

Farmers' markets are growing healthy communities

SARAH PACHECO
Staff Writer

HONOLULU — More and more people are becoming concerned consumers when it comes to their food.

Now, instead of just the cost and calorie count of a pound of apples or gallon of milk, food customers want to know where it was grown, how it was handled and who had a hand in getting it from the farm to their plate.

As these trends toward environmental sustainability, nutrition and local sourcing continue to grow — they are predicted by the National Restaurant Association's annual What's Hot culinary forecast as the top food movements of 2014 — so too do farmers' markets. Oahu, in particular, has seen a surge in these

ket manager of FarmLovers Farmers' Markets, which oversees the Haleiwa, Kakaako, Pearlridge, Hawaii Kai and Kailua Town farmers' markets.

Other positives to come out of farmers' market include a greater awareness of how your food is grown and a drastic reduction in your carbon footprint on the environment, as it takes far less fuel to transport lettuce from MA'O Farms in Waianae or kale from Mohala Farms in Waiialua to a downtown farmers' market than it does to ship in similar veggies from the mainland.

"This encourages more growth of local food," Boyar explained.

"There's a chain that happens when people shop at farmers' markets; for every \$1 spent, another \$3 is spent in the outlying community. The impact is at least threefold."



Mark Hamamoto of Mohala Farms shows off a bunch of organic carrots he sells at FarmLovers Farmers' Markets.

arts and crafts.

Most farmers' markets provide similar accoutrements, including live demonstrations, book signings and plenty of ready-made treats to keep shoppers satisfied as they roam from booth to booth.

It's also worth mentioning farmers' markets sell more than just fruits and vegetables — local beef, fish, pasture-raised eggs, herbs, soaps, candles, potted plants, even handbags and artwork are just some of the items available at most farmers' markets.

"We have festivals to celebrate seasonal crops or cultural themes, such as Taro Fest in October and Cacao Fest in January," Boyar noted. "Vendors will go out of their way to create festive recipes and value added products highlighting that crop."

Boyar added that vendors are more than happy to answer questions customers may have and often will offer suggestions on how to use their product.



A young customer gets ready to grind a big bowl of poke from the Off Da Hook Poke booth.

"We want to be able to create a business incubate for small farmers, food manufacturers and artisans and grow a supportive and nurturing environment here in Hawaii, which will cultivate economic growth, commu-

nity health and cultural awareness," she continued. "We believe that these men and women are doing us a huge service by growing the food that we eat, and we want to support their efforts in any way possible."

Grown in Hawaii

Not all farmers' markets are created equal, according to Pamela Boyar, market manager of FarmLovers Farmers' Markets, which oversees the Haleiwa, Kakaako, Pearlridge, Hawaii Kai and Kailua Town farmers' markets.

"(Former Hawaii governor) Frank Fasi set up these 'people's markets' 30 or so years ago, so that people could have access to fresh food, which was a great idea and resource, but not all of the products were local," said Boyar.

"In our markets," Boyar continued, "the seller has to be from here

or be selling a product that was made here. We (FarmLovers Farmers' Markets and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation) are the only two (farmers' markets) that sell strictly all local."

Boyar said the best way to ensure that what you take home is fresh from the 'aina (Hawaiian for land) is to go straight to the source.

"Ask the vendor if the product is from here," she advised. "We feel it is a real disservice to our customers (not to support local). There's a lot of young farmers out there growing foods, and we really want to support them."

FARMERS' MARKETS

As more and more farmers' markets sprout up around the island, it is easy to get lost in the weeds over which market has the best bananas or sells the freshest flower lei. But the best way to figure out where and when to shop is to get out and explore!

Remember to arrive early, as stands can sell out and crowds tend to get bigger as the day goes by. Also, it's a good idea to bring your own reusable bags and plenty of \$1 bills.

The following is a list of gatherings hosted by Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and FarmLovers Farmers' Markets to help you get a taste of the local farmers' market scene:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

•Honolulu @ Night — Wednesdays, 4-7 p.m., at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall, 777 Ward Ave.

•Kailua @ Night — Thursdays, 5-7:30 p.m., parking lot by Longs Drugs, 609 Kailua Rd.

•Kapiolani Community College (KCC) — Saturdays, 7:30-11 a.m., 4303 Diamond Head Rd., Parking Lot C, Honolulu.

•KCC @ Night — Tuesdays, 4-7 p.m., 4303 Diamond Head Rd., Parking Lot C, Honolulu.

•Mililani — Sundays, 8-11 a.m., at Mililani High School gym parking lot, 95-1200 Meheula Pkwy.

For more information, including market maps and weekly tip sheets, visit hfbf.org/markets/.

FarmLovers Farmers' Markets

•Haleiwa Farmers' Market — Thursdays, 3-7 p.m., at Waimea Valley, 59-864 Kamehameha Hwy.



A shopper picks up some herbs at a FarmLovers Farmers' Markets booth.

•Hawaii Kai Farmers' Market — Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon, at Koko Head Elementary School, 189 Lunalilo Home Rd.

•Kakaako Farmers' Market — Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon, along Auahi Street in Ward Warehouse, diagonal to Ward Movie Theatre, Honolulu.

•Kailua Town Farmers' Market — Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-noon, at Kailua Elementary School, 315 Kuulei Rd.

•Pearlridge Farmers' Market — Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon, in the Pearlridge Center downtown parking lot, 98-1005 Moanalua Rd., at the corner of Kamehameha Highway and Pali Momi, Aiea.

For more information on any of the above markets, call 388-9696 or visit haleiwa farmersmarket.com.

open-air markets in recent years, with new locations cropping up nearly every week.

For those unfamiliar with farmers' markets, they are a hotbed for conscious consumers looking to find fresh, homegrown produce and handmade crafts at bargain prices. Here, farmers gather on a weekly basis to sell their products directly to customers rather than going through a middleman, such as the supermarket.

The payoff is that you, the buyer, have access to locally grown food fresh off the farm — think Kahuku corn, Manoa honey and Waimanalo greens — while farmers receive a larger slice of the profit pie for their hard work.

"We're working on helping new, young farmers market their products and give them a venue to sell their products," said Pamela Boyar, mar-

Living solely off the 'aina (land) isn't new — native Hawaiians developed a system of land management known as an ahupua'a where an entire village used resources found from mauka (the mountains) to makai (the ocean) and where each person contributed to the benefit of the society, be it through growing kalo in the lo'i (taro patch) or pounding kapa (cloth) into clothing.

Today, farmers' markets are encouraging a return to this "simpler" life where people relied on their neighbor for daily necessities rather than a stranger from eBay.

"Our markets all offer community, because there's no real places for people to gather anymore," said Boyar, noting that each FarmLovers market has a café where patrons can listen to live music, have a snack and talk story, as well as a keiki corner where kids can keep busy with free

Volunteering to help homeless proves a family affair

Story and photos by
STAFF SGT. KYLE RICHARDSON
U.S. Army-Pacific Public Affairs

HONOLULU — Volunteers brought in some well-needed holiday spirit to Kaka’ako Makai Gateway Park by feeding the homeless, here, Jan. 5.

Throughout the year, families experiencing hard times are at the forefront of many people’s minds.

The homeless, here, make the best of their situations daily.

To bring in the New Year with peace and prosperity, one family sought to take a little of their family togetherness outside of the house.

“We feel honored and privileged to first of all be in a position to help others that are less fortunate,” said Sgt. 1st Class Brian Carter, an intelligence analyst with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. “We are not rich by any means, but if you can give just a little to help others in any way possible, the blessings will come back tenfold.”

Before the Carters and the rest of his team could make it to the center of the park, a crowd of overjoyed children and adults greeted them

with thanks and curiosity. With their outstretched hands, the crowd couldn’t wait to see if the tastes of the food matched its delicious smells.

“We brought some empanadas to hand out to the families in the park,” said Nancy Crespo-Richardson, an Army Career and Alumni Program counselor at Schofield Barracks. “I’m glad that we were able to come out with the Carters. This was the first time for my son, and we wanted to teach him about helping others and what it meant to give back.”

No one came dressed as Santa, but their sacks bore enchanting dishes all the same. They delivered dinner plates fashioned with all the trimmings and desserts that most families could relate to. By the end of the evening, most of the families living in the park had full bellies and smiles.

Although the Carter’s team wasn’t the only one of families in the park delivering food, everyone volunteered their time for different reasons. Carter said his family began feeding the homeless in 2008 as a project for his daughter.

“My kids are happy and sad at the same time to help,” said Carter. “They are happy that they are help-



Sgt. 1st Class Brian Carter (center), an intelligence analyst with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, hands out drinks to the homeless as his daughter Kelsi and son KeAndre (right) help fill more cups during a family service project at the Kaka’ako Makai Gateway Park, Jan. 5.

ing, but sad to see other kids their age and younger in the position that they are in. We try to go out there and feed the homeless monthly, if possible. To us, it’s just a way to give

back to the community. We’ve been here since 2008 and consider Hawaii our second home, so giving back to the community feels natural.”

With the departing of 2013, the

spirit of togetherness and volunteerism remains with the Carters 365 days a year. Their next visit is scheduled this weekend, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

New price study validates commissary’s savings mission

KEVIN ROBINSON
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Commissary savings are now being measured against a wider range of retailers that sell groceries, and the comparison confirms the value of the benefit, according to the Defense Commissary Agency’s 2013 price comparison study.

For the first time, the expanded comparison survey allowed DeCA to look beyond traditional grocery stores to include price comparisons with club stores, drug stores, dollar stores and discount department stores.

This comparison validates the current 30.5 percent savings military members and their families enjoy when they shop their commissary, said DeCA Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu.

Commissary savings percentages are calculated based on an annual market basket study. Procedures differ somewhat depending on geographic location.

In the continental United States (CONUS), DeCA employs a comparison study, over a 26-week period that ended June 22, 2013, which uses the Nielsen’s database of commissary and



File photo

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — A new study validates that commissaries, such as the one located here, really do save customers an average of 30 percent.

industry front end sales volume on 37,000 grocery items with a Universal Product Code. Pricing comparisons for meat and produce department items in CONUS are accomplished through in-store audits at 30 randomly selected commissaries to compare them with commercial retail stores within commuting distance.

In Hawaii and outside CONUS (Alaska, the Far East, Europe, Guam and Puerto Rico), DeCA conducts additional in-store audits, using a broad sample of grocery, meat and produce items. Savings percentages compare commissary prices, which include DeCA’s 5-percent surcharge, to commercial prices with any applicable sales taxes included.

Last year, with a price survey that focused on traditional grocery retailers, commissary savings were at 31.2 percent. This year’s 30.5 percent savings figure comes from DeCA’s ability now to access Nielsen’s “all outlets combined” database, which allows the agency to compare its prices to more retailers — discount department stores, club stores, drug stores and dollar stores — that also sell grocery items.

“When word got out on Sept. 30 that we

Just the Facts

Fast facts about commissary savings include the following:

- At 30.5 percent savings when compared to commercial stores, military commissaries saved their customers more than \$2.6 billion.
- For every dollar of taxpayer funds invested in the commissary benefit, authorized shoppers received \$2.08 in savings.
- Commissaries redeemed nearly 100 million coupons in fiscal year 2013 for a customer savings of about \$91 million.
- DeCA ranked sixth among U.S. retailers in coupon redemptions in fiscal year 2012.

were closing because of the government shutdown,” Jeu said, “our customers flocked to their stores Oct. 1, making it our largest sales day — \$30.6 million, more than double our normal daily sales volume — of the 21st century.

Those numbers underscore the fact that our patrons understand and value the savings they get from their commissary benefit.”

Time again for a wagon with swagger

If I have to spend one more day in this filthy, salt-crusted, paint-chipped, rusted, dog hair-filled, good-for-nothing tin can of a minivan, I'm gonna lose it!



THE MEAT & POTATOES OF LIFE

LISA SMITH MOLINARI
Contributing Writer

baking sun during a two-year tour of duty in Florida.

Now, stationed in Newport, R.I., our minivan is really showing her age. After 130,000 miles, her glossy paint has faded to a dull dirty white, which is most often hazed with salt and grime.

Her alloy wheels are corroded and permanently stained with brake dust. Her hood is dented and pitted with spots of rust.

Much to my middle school daughter’s embarrassment, the sliding doors freeze shut at the slightest chill, requiring her to climb out the trunk in the morning car pool line. And worst of all, the interior is almost unbearable, with God knows what ground into the upholstery, carpeting, vents and faux Naugahyde grain. Seriously, it’s gross.

But with three teenagers in private schools and college tuition bills on the horizon, buying a new car right now is about as likely as me keeping my New Year’s resolution to stop eating seconds.

So, rather than focusing on the filth, I’ve got to concentrate on the positive.

In my youth, I drove a 1975 Volkswagen Beetle for 11 years. Despite her torn, horse-hair-stuffed upholstery, useless windshield wipers and finicky alternator, we developed a symbiotic relationship. I could expertly hover in that sweet spot between the clutch and gas on a steep hill in first gear without using the break.

When her battery went dead, I could pop the clutch without assistance, jumping in to put her in gear after pushing her myself from the open driver’s side door. I could tune in the most obscure radio station, because I knew all the points on her radio-tape deck dial.

Despite her age, I was sad to see my old Beetle go when marriage and child rearing made her impractical. Now, when marriage and child rearing make my old minivan the only practical vehicle for our family, I need to channel that same symbiotic feeling.

I guess I have always liked the way she holds my coffee cup in her center console. I must admit, she has always kept all my fa-

vorite radio stations stored where I can reach them with the punch of a button.

I guess it is kind of nice to not worry when the dog jumps in, wet and dirty after a swim in the bay. And if we traded her in, I’d have to buy more school stickers for the back window, which would be a real pain, right?

Just like me, my old minivan might be showing her age, but I guess there’s still a little swagger left in my wagon.

(A 20-year military spouse and mother of three, Molinari has plenty of humor to share in her column, “The Meat and Potatoes of Life,” which appears in newspapers and at www.themeatandpotatoesoflife.com.)



File photo

Marriage and child rearing meant an end to the 1975 VW Beetle in Molinari’s youth.

Broncos run, remember, up Kolekole Pass

3rd annual Memorial Run offers tribute and views

SGT. BRIAN ERICKSON
3rd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs
25th Infantry Division

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS — Soldiers and family members of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, honored their fallen Bronco Soldiers during the 3rd Annual Bronco Memorial Run up Kolekole Pass, Saturday.

“The Bronco Memorial Association really provides a fitting tribute to the 71 who have died in combat over the last several years,” said Col. Brian S. Eifler, commander, 3rd BCT, 25th ID.

The 10K run started just behind Headquarters building for 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd BCT. The route took the runners all the way up to the scenic overlook point at the top of Kolekole Pass and back down.

See Broncos, B-5



Spc. Natalie Moseler, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Runners take off from the starting point of the third annual Bronco Memorial Run at Schofield Barracks.

Broncos: Memorable run’s pau

CONTINUED FROM B-4

“I can’t think of a better way to spend a Saturday morning,” said retired Lt. Col. Dan Wilson, the president of the Bronco Memorial Association. “This day is important because the memorial in F Quad is the touchstone for everyone who deployed with this brigade.”

While access to Kolekole Pass has been denied to the public for the last several years, special permission had been provided for this event.

“On this day, over the past three years is the only time to get up over the pass to the scenic overview because the gates are unlocked,” said Eifler. “If you haven’t been up there before, you are in for a treat.”

The two events of the day were a 1-mile keiki run for kids and a 10K

dash up to the summit of the pass that was concluded by an awards ceremony. There was a turnaround point at 5K for those who decided to not run all the way up.

Donations were accepted and T-shirts were sold to runners to help the Bronco Memorial Association in its mission of supporting families of the brigade’s heroes.

“As we run 3-miles up and 3-miles down, it is for the families of the fallen, and to remember because we can’t forget,” said Eifler.

Bronco Memorial Donations

Anyone interested in making a donation to the Bronco Memorial Association, to help its mission of honoring Bronco heroes, visit www.broncomemorial.com.